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## News Release

### Daniel Wolpert to speak at second Sustainability Seminar

By Elizabeth Tollefson on Tuesday, February 8, 2005

The second in the Sustainability Seminar Series will take place at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 17, in Youngquist Auditorium of the Northwest Research and Outreach Center on the University of Minnesota, Crookston campus. Wolpert's presentation is entitled, "Ethical Considerations in Sustainability." The series is co-sponsored by the budding Center for Sustainable Development and the Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership. The series will feature monthly speakers who will explore various dimensions of Sustainable Development – environmental, social, and economic.

Daniel Wolpert worked as a psychologist and spiritual director, a farmer, a teacher, and a construction worker before earning his Masters of Divinity degree at San Francisco Theological Seminary (SFTS). He has an undergraduate degree from the University of California at Berkeley. Over the past eighteen years he has taught in the fields of psychology and spiritual formation and led retreats in such settings as the Art of Spiritual Direction Program at SFTS, the Youth Ministry and Spirituality Project, and the Sabbath retreats. Daniel is currently the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Crookston, MN where he lives with his wife, Dr. Debra Bell, and their two sons, Sam and Max. He is a co-founder of the Minnesota Institute for Contemplation and Healing. He is also the author of "Creating a Life with God: the call of ancient prayer practices" (Upper Room 2003), and co-author of "Meeting God in Virtual Reality: using spiritual practices with media" (Abingdon 2004).

Wolpert poses the question, "Is sustainable development ethical? That is, is this a model for existence on our planet that is 'for the good?'" His seminar will advocate why he believes this to be so and review some ethical and theological underpinnings for the notion of sustainability. He will also examine some of the psychological and ethical challenges that face society as we go forward in this endeavor to "plan as if we will be here for a while." The public is invited to attend.

The first sustainability seminar in January dealt with definitions of Sustainable Development and how a Center could focus on this broad topic at a campus of the University of Minnesota. Speakers at the first seminar were Brent Sorenson, Dan Svedarsky, and Linda Kingery. For more information contact; Dan Svedarsky, 218-281-8129 or [dsvedars@mail.crk.umn.edu](mailto:dsvedars@mail.crk.umn.edu).

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